

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The appealed claims are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic specimen system comprising a population plurality of biomedical specimen collection vessels, at least some members of the population plurality being located at a vessel distribution facility, other members of the population plurality being located at a specimen collection facility, further members of the population plurality being located at a specimen testing laboratory facility, and additional members of the population plurality being transported between the facilities,

wherein each of the collection vessels includes a wireless electronic memory tag, a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag for non-contact storage and retrieval of information directly attached thereto such that the tag remains directly attached to the vessel at the facilities and as the vessel is transported between facilities.

2. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each electronic memory tag includes a radio frequency transponder.

3. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including an identification code for the vessel.

4. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 3 further including a label imprinted with a bar code attached to each vessel, the bar code identifying the vessel.

5. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including the identity of a supplier of the vessel and product information about the vessel.

6. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein electronic memory tags on vessels at the specimen collection facility contain stored data including identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor.

7. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 6 wherein an electronic memory tag on a vessel at the specimen collection facility contains stored data further including definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel.

8. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic specimen system comprising:
a ~~population~~ plurality of collection vessels, at least some members of the ~~population~~ plurality being located at a vessel distribution facility, other members of the ~~population~~ plurality being located at a specimen collection facility, further members of the ~~population~~ plurality being located at a specimen testing laboratory facility, and additional members being transported between the facilities,

wherein each of the collection vessels includes a wireless electronic memory tag, with a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag for non-contact storage and retrieval of information directly attached thereto such that the tag remains directly attached to the vessel at the facilities and as the vessel is transported between facilities;

data stored on electronic memory tags of members at the specimen collection facility including an identification code for the vessel to which the tag is directly attached, the identity of the supplier of the vessel and product information about the vessel, identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor, and definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel; and

a label imprinted with an identifying bar code attached to each vessel.

9. (Currently Amended) A toxicology specimen system comprising a ~~population~~ plurality of collection vessels, each configured to receive and contain a toxicology specimen and having a wireless electronic memory tag directly attached to the vessel for non-contact storage and retrieval of information, wherein the ~~population~~ plurality includes members located at a vessel distribution facility, other members of the ~~population~~ plurality being located at a specimen collection facility, further members of the ~~population~~ plurality being located at a specimen testing laboratory, and additional members being transported between the facilities,

wherein each of the collection vessels includes a wireless electronic memory tag, with a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag for non-contact storage and retrieval of information directly attached thereto such that the

tag remains directly attached to the vessel at the facilities and as the vessel is transported between facilities.

10. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein each electronic memory tag includes a radio frequency transponder.

11. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including an identification code for the vessel.

12. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 11 further including a label imprinted with an identifying bar code attached to each vessel.

13. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein each electronic memory tag contains stored data including the identity of the supplier of the vessel and product information about the vessel.

14. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein electronic memory tags on vessels at the specimen collection facility contain stored data including identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor.

15. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 14 wherein an electronic memory tag on a vessel at the specimen collection facility contains stored data further including definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel.

16. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system as claimed in claim 9 wherein an electronic memory tag contains stored data including an encoded electronic signature of the donor of a toxicology specimen.

17. (Currently Amended) A toxicology specimen system comprising:

a ~~population~~ plurality of biomedical specimen collection vessels, wherein the ~~population~~ plurality includes members located at a vessel distribution facility, other members of the ~~population~~ plurality being located at a specimen collection facility, further members of the ~~population~~ plurality being located at a specimen testing laboratory facility, and additional members of the ~~population~~ plurality being transported between the facilities,

each vessel having a wireless electronic memory tag directly attached to the vessel such that the tag remains directly attached to the vessel at the facilities and as the vessel is transported between facilities, the electronic memory tag including a radio frequency transponder for non-contact storage and retrieval of information; data stored on the electronic memory tags including an identification code for the vessel that is unique to the tag on the vessel, the identity of the supplier of the vessel and product information about the vessel, identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor, definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel, and an encoded electronic signature of the donor

of the toxicology specimen in the vessel; and a label imprinted with an identifying bar code attached to each vessel.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for electronically storing data on a diagnostic or toxicology specimen vessel and remotely reading data from the vessel comprising:

at a vessel distribution facility providing a ~~population~~ plurality of biomedical specimen vessels, each having a wireless electronic memory tag directly attached thereto, with data electronically stored on the electronic memory tag including an electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag that is unique to the tag;

shipping members of the ~~population~~ plurality having the electronic memory tags directly attached thereto with electronically stored data from the vessel distribution facility to a specimen collection facility; and

subsequently reading the stored data from the electronic memory tags with a non-contact electronic reader or scanner at a specimen testing laboratory facility.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for recording information about a diagnostic or toxicology specimen on a diagnostic or toxicology specimen vessel comprising:

at a vessel distribution facility providing a ~~population~~ plurality of biomedical specimen vessels, each having a wireless electronic memory tag directly attached to the vessel, with a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag;

distributing ~~population~~ plurality members including the wireless electronic memory tag directly attached thereto to specimen collection facilities;

collecting a specimen from a donor in the specimen vessel at one of the specimen collection facilities; and

electronically storing information about the specimen, donor, and/or tests to be performed on the specimen on the electronic memory tag at the specimen collection facility at which the specimen is collected.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19 further including collecting and storing an electronic signature of the specimen donor on the electronic memory tag at the specimen collection facility at which the specimen is collected.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19 further including transporting the member vessel with collected specimen from the specimen collection facility to a specimen testing laboratory and storing the results of the analytical tests performed on the specimen in the vessel on the electronic memory tag at the specimen testing laboratory.

22. – 37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system comprising a collection vessel configured to receive and contain a toxicology specimen, a tamper-indicating seal, and a wireless electronic memory tag directly attached to the vessel such that the tag remains directly attached to the vessel as the vessel is transported, the tag providing non-contact storage and retrieval of information and wherein the electronic memory tag contains stored data

including an encoded electronic signature of the donor of a toxicology specimen and a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 further including an electronic database accessible from the specimen collection facility for storing data entered at the collection facility.

41. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 40 further including an electronic network connecting the specimen collection facility to the specimen testing laboratory facility for transmitting data from the specimen collection facility to the specimen testing laboratory facility.

42. (Currently Amended) A toxicology specimen system comprising
a ~~population~~ plurality of collection vessels,
each member of the ~~population~~ plurality of collection vessels configured to receive and contain a toxicology specimen and having a wireless electronic memory tag directly attached to the vessel for non-contact storage and retrieval of information, the memory tag containing a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag and stored data including an encoded electronic signature of the donor of a toxicology specimen,
wherein the ~~population~~ plurality includes a member at a specimen collection facility and a member at a specimen testing laboratory facility and

wherein the members are transportable between the facilities and the tag is directly attached to the vessel such that it remains directly attached to the vessel at the facilities and as the vessel is transported between facilities.

43. (Previously Presented) A toxicology specimen system comprising:

a biomedical specimen collection vessel and a tamper-indicating, wireless electronic memory tag having a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag, the tag being directly attached to the vessel such that the tag remains directly attached to the vessel as the vessel is shipped to and among a vessel distribution facility, a specimen collection facility, and a specimen testing laboratory facility, the tag including a radio frequency transponder for non-contact storage and retrieval of information;

data stored on the electronic memory tag including an identification code for the vessel, the identity of the supplier of the vessel and product information about the vessel, the tag configured to receive identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and about the specimen donor, definition of the analytical tests to be performed on the specimen in the vessel, and an encoded electronic signature of the donor of the toxicology specimen in the vessel; and

a label imprinted with an identifying bar code.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for recording information about a diagnostic or toxicology specimen on a diagnostic or toxicology specimen vessel comprising:

providing a ~~population~~ plurality of biomedical specimen vessels, each of the specimen vessels having a wireless electronic memory tag directly attached to the specimen vessel,

wherein the population plurality includes a member at a vessel distribution facility, a member at a specimen collection facility, and a member at a specimen testing laboratory facility, and wherein each of the vessels includes a wireless electronic memory tag with a unique electronic identification code stored on the electronic memory tag directly attached thereto such that the tag remains directly attached to the vessel at the facilities and as the vessel is transported between facilities;

collecting a specimen from a donor in a specimen vessel at the specimen collection facility;

electronically storing information about the specimen, donor, and/or tests to be performed on the specimen on the electronic memory tag attached to the vessel into which the specimen is collected at the specimen collection facility including

the electronic signature of the specimen donor.

45. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the specimen collection facility is selected from the group consisting of hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices and combinations thereof.

46. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the specimen collection facility and specimen testing laboratory facility are remote from one another so that members of the population plurality at the specimen collection facility being transported to the specimen testing laboratory facility are couriered from the specimen collection facility to the specimen testing laboratory facility.

47. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the specimen collection facility and specimen testing laboratory facility are remote from one another so that members of the ~~population~~ plurality at the specimen collection facility being transported to the specimen testing laboratory facility travel in a shipping carton.

48. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic specimen system as claimed in claim 1 wherein none of the members of the ~~population~~ plurality located at the vessel distribution facility contain specimens and some of the members of the ~~population~~ plurality located at the specimen collection facility and specimen testing laboratory facility contain specimens.

49. (Currently Amended) A ~~population~~ plurality of biomedical specimen collection vessels comprising
~~population~~ plurality members located at a vessel distribution facility,
~~population~~ plurality members located at a specimen collection facility, and
~~population~~ plurality members located at a specimen testing laboratory facility,
wherein each vessel of the ~~population~~ plurality has a wireless electronic memory tag
directly attached to the vessel, the electronic memory tag including a radio
frequency transponder for non-contact storage and retrieval of information.
wherein data stored on the electronic memory tags of all of the ~~population~~ plurality
members includes a unique identification code for the vessel,
wherein data stored on the electronic memory tags of the ~~population~~ plurality members
located at the specimen collection facility and specimen testing laboratory facility
includes identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel and

about the specimen donor, and an encoded electronic signature of the donor of the toxicology specimen in the vessel, but the data stored on the electronic memory tags of the ~~population~~ plurality members located at the vessel distribution facility does not include identifying information about a specimen contained in the vessel, nor information about the specimen donor, nor an encoded electronic signature of the donor of the toxicology specimen in the vessel.